27

BY THE KING.

A Proclamation for the removing of the Courts of Kings-Bench and of the Exchequer, from Westminster to Oxford.

WHEREAS the sole power of appoynting the Place or Places, in which Our Great Courts of Iustice shall be kept, and of removing them from one place to another, as urgent occasion shall move Us, by the Lawes of this Kingdome is inherent in Our Royall Person. And whereas it is of great importance to Our service in these times of difficulty and distraction, to have Our Iudges of Our said Courts to attend neere unto Us, by whose advice We may the better proceed in all those Cases wherein the Iudgement and knowledge of the Lawes is required. And whereas more especially the Chancellor, or Lord Keeper of the Great Seale of England, and the Judges of Our Court, called the *Kings-Bench*, were and are to follow the King; and Our Court of *Exchequer*, being the proper Court of Our Revenue, ought to attend Us as We shall appoynt. And whereas Our Cities of *London* and *Westminster* have been, and yet are, the chiefe Causers, and Maintainers of this present Rebellion against Us. And We taking into Our serious consideration, that while Our Courts of *Kings-Bench*, *Common-Pleas*, & of Our *Exchequer* are kept at *Westminster*, many of Our good and Loyall Subjects might be compelled or injoyned, by Proces in Our name, to make their appearance there, which they could not doe without hazard of Imprisonment, or other dammage or violence from the fomentors of this Rebellion; and many might suffer prejudice by Verdicts and Iudgements had and obtained against them by default or otherwise, when they could not with safety come to make their just defences: thereupon We did resolve to remove those Courts from *Westminster* to Our City of *Oxford*, whether other of Our Courts of Iustice have been and are already removed by Our former Proclamation. And to the end that there might not be any prejudice to any of Our Subjects, by discontinuance of their Suits in those Courts or otherwise, We did send Our severall Writs of Adjournment, directed to Our Iudges of Our said Courts of *Kings-Bench* and *Common-Pleas*, and to Our Barons of Our *Exchequer*, thereby commanding and giving Warrant and authority to them respectively, to adjourne all Pleas and Proces depending before them, in and from the Two and Twentieth day of *November* last past, to the first returne of *Hillary* Terme next, commonly called *Octabis Hillarii*, to be holden then at Our City of *Oxford*. But our Messenger sent with those Writs (as We have been informed) for no other cause but for doing his duty in carrying and delivering those Writs, was imprisoned, and in an unjust and illegall way Sentenced to dye, and brought to a place of execution, and threatned to be Hanged, as at that time another of Our Messengers for no other cause then for doing his duty in the like kind, in carrying Our Proclamations to *London*, was then shamefully Hanged and Murthered, (an Act so Barbarous as no former age can paraleli) and We have not yet received any certain and particular information touching the execution of those Writs. In pursuance therefore of Our former resolution of removing those Courts from *Westminster* to Our City of *Oxford*, We doe for the present by this Our Proclamation, authorized under Our Great Seale of *England*, Ordaine and appoynt, and by these presents publish and Declare Our Will and Pleasure to be, That Our said Courts of *Kings-Bench* and *Exchequer*, shall for the next *Hillary* Terme, at the usuall and accustomed time for holding of the same, be holden and kept at Our said City of *Oxford*, and not at *Westminster*, and shall be continued and kept there during that whole Terme, and afterwards at the severall times and Termes for holding and keeping of those Courts, untill Our farther pleasure be known and published for removing them from *Oxford*. And We doe hereby straightly charge and Command, all Our Iudges of Our said Court of *Kings-Bench*, and Our Barons of Our *Exchequer*, and all Officers, Protonotaries, Clerkes,